# THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

## THIRD SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

**Monday, the 12th December 1938.**

The House met at eleven of the clock in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, Mr. President (THE HON. DR. U. RAMA RAO) in the Chair.

### I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### STARRED QUESTIONS

*Preference given to Indian-made articles and Indian agencies in purchasing Medical Stores.*

* 47 *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state the measures adopted for requisitioning Medical Stores for Government hospitals, and how far preference is given to Indian articles and Indian agencies for obtaining them?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Medical Stores required for Government medical institutions have hitherto been obtained in the following ways:—

(1) From the Medical Store Depot, Madras.

(2) By local purchase.

(3) By indents on the India Office for special medical stores and other articles of European manufacture required for Presidency State hospitals and district headquarters hospitals.

(4) By direct purchase abroad of medical stores required for experimental or research purposes.

"The Government have issued instructions to heads of departments and indenting officers to encourage the local purchase of stores of foreign manufacture and have indicated the order of preference to be given in making purchases. According to these instructions all articles of equipment apparatus, instruments, hospital furniture appliances, etc., required for use in Government medical institutions will hereafter be purchased in India through local agencies. The Government have also ordered that spare bottles of Indian manufacture should be purchased

for use in Government medical institutions provided they are more or less equal in all respects to those manufactured elsewhere.''

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I enquire whether the stores which can be obtained in India are not still obtained from the India Office?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"As far as possible those that are available in India are purchased in India. But where they are not available in India, the Stores department are asked to purchase for the India Office.''

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"How do Government ascertain that these instructions are carried out? What is there to check and audit the whims and wishes of the institutions from doing as they liked?''

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Once the Government have passed orders it is expected that heads of departments responsible for the discharge of duties will do their work, and if they do not do so, the Government will see that they do it.''

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know how the Government know this? My information is that the rule is honoured more in the breach than in observance in some offices.''

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am sorry that the experience of the hon. Member is so much in variance with ordinary practice. I am sure people who are in charge of Government and those subordinate to them do carry out Government Orders and if they do not, that is the occasion for the Government to take whatever action they think necessary. So far as Government are concerned, they are satisfied that the heads of departments to whom these orders are communicated are discharging their duties.''

*Tirupati Government Hospital and adequacy of accommodation therein.*

* 48 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the year in which the Tirupati Government hospital came under Government management;

(*b*) the statistics of out-patients, in-patients and number of operations carried out for the five years succeeding the taking over of control by the Government and the five years preceding;

(*c*) whether the present accommodation for in-patients is sufficient;

(*d*) whether admission into the hospital was refused to some by the medical officer-in-charge on the ground of insufficient accommodation;